

NATM in 1998 and served as its Executive Director for nearly twenty years. Her leadership has enabled NATM to grow significantly from a small group of horse and livestock trailer manufacturers into a strong voice for trailer safety.

During Pam's tenure, NATM's membership has added more than 700 trailer manufacturers and component suppliers which collectively employ more than 419,000 American workers. NATM's staff has similarly grown over the years and the Association moved in 2013, to accommodate their growth in staff, to a new headquarters in Topeka, Kansas. Recognizing the importance of engaging in the legislative and regulatory process, Pam led the development of NATM's advocacy in Washington, D.C., which brings trailer manufacturers to visit Congress and federal agencies each year. In working closely with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, she has helped facilitate education and communication about emerging issues. Pam has also worked to develop relationships with other industry groups and has helped create a strong coalition of advocates in the name of NATM's mission of improving trailer safety.

Among Pam's many accomplishments was the development of NATM's Compliance Verification Program, which brings NATM consultants to all trailer manufacturer member facilities biennially to ensure they have processes in place to build trailers in accordance with federal safety standards and industry best practices. Under Pam's leadership, NATM members voted unanimously to make this important program a requirement for membership in the Association. Beyond this program, Pam has overseen the development of additional technical resources and educational programming to help member companies continue to have the tools to comply with regulations as well as grow their own businesses.

In addition to her work at NATM, Pam is an active participant in the Topeka community. She has served on the Board of Regents at Washburn University, has been a leader with the Kansas Society of Association Executives and a member of the Stormont-Vail Foundation Advisory Board. Pam is the proud mother of three and grandmother of eight. I want to thank Pam for her tireless commitment to trailer safety, and years of service to NATM and the Topeka community. I wish her and Tom many happy years of retirement.

IRAQ AND SYRIA GENOCIDE EMERGENCY RELIEF AND ACCOUNTABILITY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I held a hearing on the need for aid to be provided for victims of religious and ethnic persecution in Iraq and Syria. In August 2014, ISIS began committing genocide against Yazidis and Christians in Iraq. Three years later, they are still not receiving the assistance they need from the United States and so their survival in their ancient homelands is in jeopardy.

Two consecutive Secretaries of State and the Congress declared ISIS was responsible

for genocide. This year, the President and Vice President declared the genocide and committed the Administration to provide relief to the surviving religious and ethnic minority communities. In the final appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2017, Congress required the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development to fund the assistance promised by the Administration.

But career staff at the State Department and USAID have ignored the law and thwarted the will of the President, the Congress and the people we represent. These bureaucrats have refused to direct assistance to religious and ethnic minority communities, even to enable them to survive genocide. This obstruction is unacceptable and I urge Secretary Tillerson and new USAID Administrator Green to put an end to it.

I chaired my first hearing on atrocities against religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq or Syria in September of 2013. The hearing today was the 10th I have chaired focused in whole or in part on their plight. Last September I introduced bipartisan legislation, co-authored by my good friend ANNA ESHOO, explicitly authorizing the State Department and USAID to identify the needs of these communities and fund entities, including faith-based entities, effectively providing them with aid on-the-ground. Even though the U.S. already has the authority to provide such assistance, we were aware some in the bureaucracy inaccurately claimed they lacked the authority and so we wanted to remove this excuse. It was also important to have a detailed authorization as the foundation for forth-going appropriations. This bill would also set an important precedent for how the U.S. should respond to future crises in which religious and ethnic minorities are targeted for atrocity crimes.

Partially informed by my trip to Erbil last December to meet first-hand with genocide survivors, we reintroduced this legislation as H.R. 390 almost immediately after the start of the new Congress, with even stronger support from both sides of the aisle and many Yazidi, Christian, accountability and human rights groups and leaders. The House passed it unanimously in early June and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed it unanimously on September 19. There has been no subsequent action in the Senate. The appropriations bill for fiscal year 2017 has expired and the situation on-the-ground is deteriorating for these endangered communities. I respectfully ask the Senate to immediately pass H.R. 390.

This hearing explored the urgent crisis for Christian and Yazidi genocide survivors, especially in Iraq, what the Administration can do now to enable them to survive, and what the consequences will be for these communities and our national security if we fail to act. We heard from several of our witnesses, helping these communities survive and return to their homes will reduce threats from Iran. It will also deny ISIS a major propaganda victory and recruiting tool.

I should note the State Department and USAID were invited to testify. They were unavailable.

Our first witness was known to many of you, my dear friend for many years, the former Representative for the 10th district of Virginia, Frank Wolf. He is testified today as the Distinguished Senior Fellow at 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative and he visited Northern Iraq this

August. In his written statement, Congressman Wolf warns "if bold action is not taken by the end of the year, I believe a tipping point will be reached and we will see the end of Christianity in Iraq." About the Yazidis, he reports although "Sinjar has been liberated from ISIS since the fall of 2015 . . . it is currently controlled by multiple different militia groups . . . few families have been able to return and few aid groups work in the area."

Congressman Wolf also raised the alarm about Iraq-backed militias filling the post-ISIS liberation vacuum as part of Tehran's "goal of creating a land-bridge from Iran [to] allow Iran to move fighters, weapons and supplies to aid Hezbollah and other terrorist groups" and offered several concrete policy recommendations the Administration and Congress should heed.

Our second witness was Shireen, a Yazidi survivor of ISIS enslavement. She wrote in her statement for the record this "captivity under ISIS . . . was like hell. They performed an abdominal surgery on me . . . and I am suffering from the effects of it . . . They committed all kinds of atrocious crimes against us including mass killing, sexual enslavement, and forced conversion."

Shireen also wrote "19 members of my family and my relatives are missing. They may be killed or still in captivity but we don't know anything about them . . . We are still waiting for action and the liberation of thousands of Yazidis from ISIS captivity." She warns that "Yazidis, Christians and other religious minorities, especially the non-Muslim minorities, cannot survive in Syria and Iraq under the current conditions. Without serious action from you and the world governments, many of these people will continue to flee their ancient homelands of Syria and Iraq."

Our third witness was Lauren Ashburn, Managing Editor and Anchor of EWTV News Nightly. She travelled to Northern Iraq earlier this year and has continued to report on the crisis. Her story-telling and video, rooted in more than 20 years as a journalist, has helped tell the stories of heroism, indomitable faith, and survival. As she reported in her written testimony for the hearing "Christians in Iraq are on the brink of extinction . . . The United States is the only nation in the world that can provide concrete aid to rebuild the community that I saw in shambles."

Our fourth and final witness was Stephen Rasche, Legal Counsel and Director of IDP Resettlement Programs for the Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil, and Legal Counsel and Chief Coordinator for the Nineveh Reconstruction Committee. Mr. Rasche testified before a hearing I chaired of the Helsinki Committee last September, and he reported in his written testimony today, "I regret to say that we have still yet to receive any form of meaningful aid from the U.S. Government . . . While we have found the political appointees much more willing to help us since January, the fact is that even after the better part of a year, they have been unable to move the bureaucracy to take meaningful action."

The Obama Administration channeled all U.S. funding for stabilization in Iraq through the Funding Facility for Stabilization, administered by the UN Development Program, and the current Administration has continued this policy. Mr. Rasche testified in his written statement "While status reports from UNDP work in

Nineveh purport to show real progress in the Christian majority towns, on the ground we see little evidence of it. Work projects are in most cases cosmetic in nature, and much of that cynically so . . . In effect, U.S. taxpayers are financing the spoils of genocide.”

As an alternative option for U.S. assistance, he details the Nineveh Sustainable Return Program, an initiative of the ecumenical Nineveh Reconstruction Committee to repair homes damaged or destroyed by ISIS. The Program has already rebuilt several thousand homes and enabled thousands of Christian families to return, mostly funded by the Knights of Columbus and Aid to the Church in Need, with some additional funding from the Government of Hungary. Last month, the Nineveh Reconstruction Committee USA submitted a proposal to USAID to ensure the project can be completed and many more families can return.

I strongly support this time-sensitive proposal and call on USAID Administrator Mark Green to ensure a decision is made about it soon. Because of the resistance among career staff at USAID to directing assistance to religious and ethnic minority communities, even though they were targeted for genocide, it is imperative officials appointed by the President are part of the review process and that the final decision be made by Presidential appointees. I included this proposal as part of the hearing record.

As Mr. Rasche warns in his written testimony, “Today, as I speak to you, we are caught fully exposed and at-risk, finding ourselves at a critical historical inflection point, foreign aid decisions over which will determine whether Christianity, and religious pluralism—vital to the U.S. national interest and regional security—will survive in Iraq at all.”

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. JUDITH
TUCKER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional community leader, an outstanding citizen, and a dear friend of longstanding, Ms. Judith Tucker, on the occasion of her retirement.

A native of West Point, Georgia, Judith attended Spelman College before transferring to Columbus College, where she received her bachelor's degree in General Business.

Judith previously served as a marketing officer for Columbus Bank and Trust Company and the Vice President of Product Development at Synovus Financial Corporation. After working for Synovus Financial Corporation, Judith joined the board of Midtown Incorporated where Mayor Teresa Tomlinson served as the Executive Director. After developing a solid business relationship, Tomlinson hired Judith as MidTown's Director of Community Affairs, and together they increased the organization's membership from 24 to 100 members. When Tomlinson ran and won in the 2010 mayoral election for the City of Columbus, she appointed Judith to be her Executive Assistant, and for more than 7 years, Judith has done a

tremendous job in upholding the highest standards of professionalism, honesty, and affability.

Ms. Tucker's distinguished civil service has been mirrored by her extensive involvement in her community. In conjunction with her professional accomplishments in government, Ms. Tucker served on a several boards, including the boards of NeighborWorks for Columbus and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. She also belonged to a number of prestigious organizations, such as Girl Scouts of Historical Georgia, the Gracious Ladies of Georgia, and the Kiwanis Club of Columbus.

Judith Tucker's faith has always instilled within her a desire to positively shape the community in which she lives. As the Chair Pro-Tem of the Board of Trustees at St. James A.M.E., she regularly incorporates her faith into her commitment to public service.

She has accomplished much throughout her life, but none of this would be possible without the grace of God and the inspiration, love and support of her son, Kenneth Tucker, and her grandson, Tristan Tucker.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: “You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give.” The greater Columbus area is a better place because of Judith Tucker and her tireless commitment to making our community stronger. As a woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her expertise are unparalleled, but her heart for helping others utilizing these qualities has made her life's work truly special.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 700,000 citizens of the 2nd Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Ms. Judith Tucker upon the occasion of her retirement from an outstanding career of public service.

CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL DAY
OF TAIWAN

HON. EARL L. “BUDDY” CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the upcoming National Day of Taiwan, which falls on October 10th. I extend my best wishes to the people of Taiwan as they prepare for this important day, and also offer my best wishes for the day itself.

As a Member of Congress, I am proud of the actions we have taken through the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) and the Six Assurances in helping to make it possible for the people of Taiwan to build the strong, prosperous, and democratic society they enjoy today. Our bilateral relationship is as strong as ever, and I am confident it will continue to be in the years to come.

Trade between the United States and Taiwan exceeded \$65 billion in 2016, a sign of close economic cooperation and friendship. Recently, Foxconn, a Taiwan-based company, made an announcement that they were expanding in to the United States through new facilities. I look forward to working towards closer trade ties and a renewed commitment for economic prosperity.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in a message of continuing friendship to the people

of Taiwan, and in wishing them a Happy Double Ten Day.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
DR. STEPHEN A. RALLS

HON. A. DREW FERGUSON IV

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Dr. Stephen A. Ralls.

Dr. Ralls has served as the Executive Director of the American College of Dentists for the past 20 years, one of the longest serving leaders in the organization's 100-year history.

The American College of Dentists was founded on August 20, 1920, in response to serious problems facing the profession. The group works to elevate the standards of dentistry, encourage graduate study and grant fellowship to those who have done meritorious work. The American College of Dentists is nonprofit and apolitical, and has long been regarded as the “conscience of dentistry.”

As a dentist myself, I deeply appreciate the contributions of this organization, and, particularly Dr. Ralls, to the field of dentistry. Their work has elevated the field and calls on all dentists to excel.

I want to extend my gratitude to Dr. Ralls for his commitment to the American College of Dentists and the greater community of dentistry. I congratulate him on his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 250TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF
LENOX

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Town of Lenox, Massachusetts on the occasion of its 250th anniversary. Over the course of its storied history, Lenox has been home to people and events which have greatly contributed to the vibrancy of our country's traditions and culture. Located in the heart of the Berkshire Mountains, the town is a wonderful representation of Western Massachusetts and the beauty it holds.

Lenox was named after Charles Lennox, the Third Duke of Richmond, who was known and respected for being an advocate of the interests of American colonists in the British House of Lords. The town lived up to the legacy of its namesake as an active participant in the Revolutionary War. In less than a decade after its first town meeting in 1767, Lenox was represented before the Royal Governor of Massachusetts by Colonel John Paterson, who would go on to play a central role in paving the way for the birth of the United States of America.

Since then, Lenox has contributed generously to the notable history and culture of not only Massachusetts, but also that of our nation. The region's rustic beauty helped Lenox develop into a lively artists' colony, attracting creative minds the likes of which included writer Nathaniel Hawthorne, photographer James